

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for treating septic disorders comprising
 - (a) determining the serum level of interleukin-6 in a patient at a first time t_1 ,
 - (b) determining the serum level of interleukin-6 in the patient at a second time t_2 which is at least 30 minutes after the first time t_1 , and
 - (c) where the serum level of interleukin-6 at t_2 is higher than the serum level of interleukin-6 at t_1 , in a measurement period of at least thirty minutes,
which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a
TNF antagonist to the patient.
2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the serum level of interleukin-6 is 500pg/ml or and above at t_1 and t_2 in the measurement period.
3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein t_2 the measurement period is 4-10 hours after t_1 .
4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an $F(ab')_2$ fragment of a monoclonal anti-TNF antibody is used as the TNF antagonist.
5. (previously presented) A kit comprising a TNF antagonist together with instructions for the use of this TNF antagonist for treating septic disorders where the serum level of IL-6 increases in a measurement period of at least thirty minutes.

6. (previously presented) A kit as claimed in claim 5, wherein a monoclonal anti-TNF antibody is used as TNF antagonist.

7. (currently amended) A method for establishing whether a patient suffering from sepsis is to be treated with TNF antagonists, which comprises the following steps:

- (a) determination of the serum level of interleukin-6 in the patient at a first time t_1 ,
- (b) determination of the serum level of interleukin-6 at a second time t_2 which is at least 30 minutes after the first time t_1 , and determination of the ratio

$$V = \frac{\text{IL-6 level } (t_2)}{\text{IL-6 level } (t_1)}, \text{ and}$$

- (c) treatment with TNF antagonists in the case where $V > 1$.